

mandarin variety fact sheet

Corsica clementines



Origin

Selected in Corsica, 1981. Two types, Corsica 1 and Corsica 2, introduced to New Zealand in 1987 and then imported to Australia and released from Plant Quarantine in 1999.

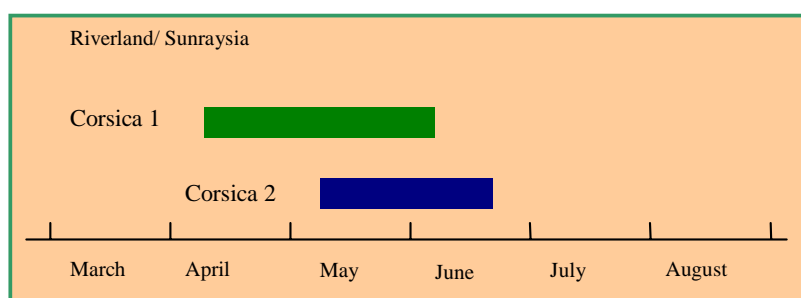
Type

Early (Corsica 1), mid season (Corsica 2), easy peel.

Market

Fresh, domestic and export. Gas degreening of Corsica 1 would allow marketing to begin in mid April in the Riverland/Sunraysia region. Corsica 2 marketing period could begin in early May but would overlap the increasingly popular Nules clementine.

Marketing season (estimated)



Internal quality

First fruit produced in Australia in 2002 from reworked Valencia trees in the Riverland/Sunraysia region. Corsica 1 was the earliest to mature and would require gas degreening at the start of its marketing period in April. Average juice content was 41% and the Brix:Acid ratio ranged from 8.7 - 11.7. Corsica 2 reached acceptable maturity in early May with a higher average juice content (49%) and Brix:Acid ratio (11.5 - 12.1). Seed content averaged 1 - 8 per fruit in a mixed citrus planting and would potentially be low in a single variety block. Corsica clementines did not reach a Brix:Acid ratio equivalent to Nules clementine in comparative testing in 2002.

External quality

Smooth to slightly pebbled skin texture with attractive orange colour when fully mature. Fruit shape is round to flattened with Corsica 1 fruit diameter 55 - 63mm and Corsica 2, 61 - 65mm. Fruit is easily peeled and segments separate readily. Rind deteriorates rapidly after peak maturity, especially following rainfall.

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Postharvest performance

Fruit must be clipped from the tree. The response of Corsica clementines to gas degreening has not been assessed under Australian conditions. On tree storage of fruit is not possible due to rind deterioration with both selections.

Field performance

Trees reworked to Valencia came into bearing only 2 years from grafting. Fruit set was heavy and hand thinning rates as high as 800 fruitlets per tree were required to prevent limb breakage. Growth is initially upright and vigorous with early pruning recommended to develop a tree framework. Cropping was highest on reworked trees with a trifoliata rootstock, 38kg/tree. Trees with a citrange or cleopatra mandarin rootstock yielded between 18 - 28kg/tree in 2002. Corsica clementines are also reported to bear heavy crops in New Zealand with a large proportion of the fruit > 55mm in diameter. Long term yield performance in Australian conditions to be determined.

Pest and disease

No specific pest and disease problems have been noted to this point but some limb dieback has been observed in nursery trees.

Extent of plantings

Currently planted in evaluation trials, arboreta and budwood multiplication blocks. Low commercial demand for budwood from Auscitrus.

State of knowledge



Growers should ensure that trees are propagated from Premium Budwood obtained from Auscitrus.

Last Revised: November 2002

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